

(a) the number of STD/PCOs installed in the country during the last three years, State-wise; and

(b) the criteria followed while sanctioning them?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) The information is given in the attached statement.

(b) STD/PCOs are allotted by the STD/PCO allotment committee constituted one for each SSA consisting of 2 official members and non-official members one each nominated by sitting Members of Parliament representing the SSA. Educational qualification is 8th pass for rural areas and Matric/High School pass for urban areas. Preference is given to the following categories of persons:

1. Handicapped including blind persons.
2. SC/ST Applicants.
3. Ex-Servicemen & War Widows.
4. Retired DoT employees or their dependents.
5. Dependents of Freedom Fighters.
6. Charitable Institutions/Hospitals.

Statement

S.No.	Name of the Circle	STD PCOs 1993-94	Provided 1994-95	during 1995-96
1	2	3	4	5
1.	Andaman & Nicobar	0	0	6
2.	Andhra Pradesh	780	1550	1976
3.	Assam	300	480	333
4.	Bihar	940	272	380
5.	Gujarat	1289	2744	1908
6.	Haryana	301	891	686
7.	Himachal Pradesh	66	111	144
8.	Jammu & Kashmir	26	75	108
9.	Karnataka	1079	2154	1323
10.	Kerala	928	1608	2078
11.	Madhya Pradesh	1536	2438	2105
12.	Maharashtra	2190	2028	4323
13.	North Eastern	64	125	153
14.	Orissa	213	457	717
15.	Punjab	702	1471	3232
16.	Rajasthan	982	2165	1236

1	2	3	4	5
17.	Tamil Nadu	416	1125	1750
18.	Uttar Pradesh(East)]			
19.	Uttar Pradesh(West)]	827	2926	3356
20.	West Bengal	0	264	608
21.	Mumbai	796	1492	1412
22.	Calcutta	596	1313	1717
23.	Delhi	345	511	2134
24.	Chennai	229	310	798

Foreign Companies in Mining Sector

*199. DR. MAHADEEPAK SINGH SHAKYA:
SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH:

Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) the details of proposals received from foreign companies to invest in mining sector;

(b) whether the Foreign Investment Promotion Board (FIPB) has cleared some proposals in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; alongwith the areas identified therefor, mineral and metal-wise;

(d) the investment involved in these proposals; and

(e) the number of companies which have started mining work by December, 1996; State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL and MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA): (a) to (d) The proposals for foreign investment, inter-alia, in the mining sector are received by the Secretariat of Industrial Approvals, Department of Industrial Policy and Promotion, Ministry of Industry for consideration by FIPB. On the recommendations of the Ministry of Mines, FIPB has approved investment pattern of 33 proposals in the Mining/Metallurgical sector involving a total investment of Rs.2312.31 crores as per details furnished in the Annexure.

(e) The grant of Prospecting Licence (PL) and Mining Lease (ML) is Governed by the provisions of the Mines and Minerals [Regulation and Development] Act, 1957 (MM[R&D] Act, 1957) and the rules made thereunder. Only in respect of minerals included in Schedule-I of the MM[R&D] Act, 1957, prior approval of the Central Government is necessary. Applications for grant of mineral concessions have to be made to the respective State Governments and the Central Government does not monitor the receipt of applications and the grant of Prospecting Licence and Mining Lease by the State Governments.

Statement

*List of Projects with Foreign Investment Approved In The Mineral Sector
(November, 1995 to February, 1997)*

Sl. No.	Name of the Indian Co.	Name of the Foreign Co.	Percentage of Foreign Equity	Cost of Project/ Foreign Investment	Description of Project
1	2	3	4	5	6
1.	Finolex Cables Ltd. Pune	Eassex Group Inc., U.S.A.	50%	Rs.13.59 crores/ Rs.6.00 crores	Continuous Copper Rod manufacture.
2.	Geotech Pvt. Ltd.	Dr.Marshall Silver	30%	N.A./ Rs.3.30 lakhs	Consultancy service in the field of Geo-technology.
3.	Almetal Recyclers Limited (100% EOU)	1. Mr. Chine Joo Hai, Singapore. 2. N R I	45% 45%	Rs.55 lakhs/ Rs.68 lakhs	Recyclers of Non-ferrous metals like copper, aluminium, etc.
4.	Hindustan Zinc Ltd.	BHP Minerals, Australia	60%		Prospecting for Lead, Zinc, Copper, Gold and associated minerals.
5.	CRA Exploration (I) Pvt. Limited	CRA, Australia	100%	A \$ 1.50 lakhs (Rs.54 lakhs)	Technical consultancy
6.	Normandy Anglo Asian Indian Pvt. Ltd.	Normandy Anglo Asian Pvt. Ltd., Malaysia	US \$ 1 lakh	N.A./ US \$ 1 lakh (Rs.36 lakhs)	Mining activities.
7.	Indian Barytes and Chemicals Ltd., Chennai (100% EOU), (Location at Anandarajapet, Cuddapah (AP))	CARPCO, USA.	12%	Rs.13.50 crores Rs.0.72 crores	Beneficiation of low grade Barytes Ore.
8.	NIL	Strait Resources Ltd., Australia	100%	US \$ 40 million (Rs.144 crores)	Exploration, processing and exploitation of Minerals.
9.	Ashton Mining India Pvt.Ltd., New Delhi	Ashton Mining, Australia	50%	N.A./ Rs.50 crores	Exploration, Mining development and mining operation of diamonds.
10.	Orissa Mining Corporation	RTZ Limited, U.K.	RTZ 51%	Rs.80 crores/ US \$ 11 million (Rs.39.60 crores)	Prospecting/mining of all minerals.
11.	Isrim Stones India Limited	Renictech Corporation, USA	Foreign 10% N R I 30%	N.A./ Rs.8 crores	Manufacturing of composite stones and Veneer panels.
12.	Dolphin Offshore Ltd., Bombay	Tetchy Investment of B.C., Netherlands	75%	Rs.5 lakhs/ Rs.3.75 lakhs	To conduct survey, research, analysis, assessment, etc.
13.	Gujarat Alkalies & Chemicals Ltd., Baroda, Gujarat	Ravtheon Engineers & Constructors Inc., U.S.A.	17%	Rs.1,200 crores/ Rs.66 crores	Manufacture of alumina Calcined alumina, fused alumina, aluminium hydroxide and integrated power unit of 70 MW.

1	2	3	4	5	6
14.	Larsen & Tubro Ltd., Bombay	To be identified	25%	Rs.1,993 crores/ Rs.164 crores	Alumina
15.	Kandula Aluminium Co. Ltd., Hyderabad	1. Australian Capital & Technologies Pty. Ltd., Australia. 2. N R I	53.43% 6.86%	—/ Rs.311.52 crores Rs.40 crores	Calcined Alumina.
16.	Shri R.K. Bagri, NRI Promoter	METDIST, U.K.	60%	Rs.1200 crores/ Rs.400 crores	Copper smelter and Refinery project in Gujarat.
17.	Oxide India Pvt. Ltd.	VAM Ltd., UK	NRI 13.81%	Rs.92,600.00	Manufacture of high & low alumina purity bed support, activated alumina catalyst career.
18.	Bihar Sponge Iron	North Ltd., Australia	50%	Rs.50 lakhs	Setting up of Joint venture for prospect- ing, mine development & mining of iron ore.
19.	De Beers India Prospecting Pvt.Ltd.	De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd.	100%	N.A.	Technical Consultancy Services.
20.	ACC-CRA Limited	CRA Limited, Australia	50%	Rs.10 crores	Exploration of Miner- als.
21.	U.P. Hepworth Pvt.Ltd.	Hepworth Minerals & Chemicals Ltd.,U.K.	51%	Rs.5.87 crores	Beneficiation of silica sands.
22.	BHP Minerals India Pvt.Ltd.	BHP Mineral Holdings Pty.Ltd., Australia	100%	US \$ 5 lakhs (Rs.1.80 crores)	Exploration & Mining Joint Ventures.
23.	Diamond Prospecting Pvt. Ltd.	De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd.		US \$ 25 million (Rs.90 crores)	Prospecting & Mining of diamonds.
24.	Australia India Resources N.L, Australia	-	100%	US \$ 200 million (Rs.720 crores) during 5 years.	Exploration/Exploit- ation of Gold. (F.4/34/96-IC 2.11.96)
25.	R.G.C. Limited, Australia	-	100%	US \$ 8 million (Rs.28.8 crores)	Exploration for mineral sands (F.4/37/96-IC 2.11.96)
26.	Lum Mawshun Minerals Pvt. Ltd., Calcutta	Keystone Financial Corp- oration, Switzerland.	50%	Rs.250 lakhs	Mining and Export of Limestone. (F.4/16/96-IC 31.8.96)
27.	Reliance Industries Limited	De Beers Consolidated Mines Ltd., South Africa	50%	US \$ 15 million (Rs.52.50 crores)	Prospecting & Mining Diamonds (F.4/13/96-IC 18.10.96)
28.	Transworld Garnet Co.	Transworld Garnet Co., Canada.	100%	—	Processing of mineral sands.
29.	Meridian Peak Resources Corporation	Meridian Peak Resources Corporation, Canada	100%	—	Exploration in the mining sector.

1	2	3	4	5	6
30.	Gujarat Aluminium & Bauxite Ltd.	Raytheon Engineers & Construction Inc., USA	22%	Rs.162.80 crores	Manufacture of Alumina, Aluminium Compounds, Met.coke, Power, etc.
31.	Pro Am Exploration (I) Pvt. Ltd., Chennai	Proam Exploration Corporation, Canada	100%	Rs.5 lakhs	Natural Mineral Resources and Oil.
32.	Ashapura Minechem Ltd., Mumbai	Volclay International, U.S.A.	50%	Rs.5 crores	Manufacture and marketing of value added Bentonite Products.
33.	Jey Jeth Granite Products Ltd., Madras (Location of site Ambalpur, Karimnagar Distt., Andhra Pradesh)	Sunmin Marble Co. Ltd. Taiwan	41.66%	Rs.1 crore	Mining of dimensional blocks, trading of granite and marble blocks and export semi-finished and finished items of the above.
Total				Rs.2312.31 crores	

[English]

Wireless Local Loop System

*200. SHRI ANNASAHIB M.K. PATIL:
SHRI K.H. MUNIYAPPA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether field trial of wireless in local loop system has been completed;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) if not, the time by which it is likely to be completed; and

(d) the name of the cities where it is likely to be introduced?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA): (a) No, Sir. The field trial of the CDMA and CT-2 Wireless Local Loop System has not been completed.

(b) Not applicable in view of (a) above.

(c) About six months.

(d) The proposal for providing Wireless in Local Loop is not yet finalised.

Posts Lying Vacant in AIR/Doordarshan

1980. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether 730 posts in programme cadre of All India Radio and Doordarshan are lying vacant at present;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) since when these posts are lying vacant; and

(d) the steps taken to fill up these posts?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The posts have been vacant due to non-availability of eligible officers, the time taken by the recruiting agencies and at times due to litigation concerning promotion, etc.

(c) The vacancies occur from time to time and this is a continuous process on account of retirement on superannuation, resignation, deputation, etc.

(d) The steps include seeking relaxation in the eligibility criteria, impressing upon the recruiting agencies for early recommendation, etc.

Gauge Conversion

1981. SHRI T. GOVINDAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are contemplating immediate steps on the request of the Government of Kerala to complete the work of conversion of Kollam-Shenkota metre gauge line into broad gauge as the progress is very slow although the work was started long ago; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the progress made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ): (a) and (b) The work has been included in the Budget 97-98 and would be taken up after the necessary clearances have been obtained.